

Honorary Commanders kick off new initiative

The change of command ceremony and reception for the Kirtland AFB Honorary Commanders Advisory Council will be held at the Mountain View Club March 10, 5 p.m.

This event formally kicks off a new initiative for the honorary commanders program to capitalize on the wide range of perspectives, abilities and ideas that Albuquerque's key leaders have to offer TEAM KIRTLAND.

Honorary commanders from 2003 as well as the new members of the advisory council for 2004 are invited to attend along with their TEAM KIRTLAND counterparts.

Advisory council members can look forward to a series of working lunches and several tours throughout the year. The first lunch is April 7, 11:30 a.m. in the Mountain View Club.

At these lunches, TEAM KIRTLAND commanders will be able to interface with the advisory council and discuss topics of mutual interest to the community and Kirtland AFB. The goal is to continue to improve relationships with each other as well as develop new ideas and better ways to conduct business in the future.

BRAC Criteria Focus on 'Military Value'

Military value will be the focus for the final selection criteria to be used in the 2005 round of base realignment and closures.

That value represents the ability of the installation to contribute to DoD future mission capabilities and operational readiness, said Philip Grone, principal assistant deputy undersecretary of defense for installations and environment. In fact, four of the eight guiding principles are centered on military value.

The final selection criteria are also based on factors such as potential costs and savings, community support and environmental considerations, Grone said. However, he added, "ultimately, the secretary must base his recommendations principally on how it contributes to our current and future mission capabilities, how it contributes to military value, how it supports the force."

The selection criteria for the upcoming BRAC round were finalized and published Feb. 12 in the Federal Register.

Congress has 30 days to carry out any disapproval action on the criteria.

Go to: www.dod.mil/brac.



Motorcycle Safety: Each Rider A Mentor

BY GEN. JOHN P. JUMPER
Air Force Chief of Staff

How many times have you heard a story like this one: A couple of friends at a party had been drinking and one suggested they take his new motorcycle to get more alcohol.

They hop on the bike, no helmets and the operator decides to show how fast the bike can go.

He's been signed up for training, but he hasn't completed the course yet.

Before long they're traveling at 120 mph in a 60 mph zone. The operator loses control and they crash. The passenger is killed, and the operator spends 30 days in the hospital.

Or one like this: A new motorcycle owner decides to get the biggest, baddest Harley he can get. He doesn't wear a helmet because he doesn't think it's "cool."

He had preliminary motorcycle training and a learner's permit. He decides he can pass a car on the right around a curve. He loses control and launches 100 feet into the air. He dies on impact.

These actual incidents are only two examples of many similar stories that pass across my desk, and illustrate why we need to change the way we think about and approach motorcycle safety.

Motorcycles can be a great form of transportation and entertainment, but they must be respected.

Lately, our Air Force members have been involved in a high number of motorcycle accidents, many of which were fatal. In Fiscal Year 2003, we lost 24 Airmen to motorcycle accidents, most of which involved unsafe operation of single vehicles and operators who practiced poor risk management or operated beyond their abilities, and lost their lives in the process.

Every member of our Air Force is critical for mission success. On the job, we exercise good operational risk

management in performing difficult and dangerous tasks. We take care to train new operators in the safest practice of our profession. We provide oversight and guidance for inexperienced Airmen and young officers as they advance from apprentice to journeyman and craftsman. We pass on the benefits of our experience and correct mistakes to help our Airmen succeed. We should also do so during our off-duty activities. Our concern for our people should not end with the workday, and our safety consciousness should not end there either. Learning about a favorite activity can be enjoyable in itself. The proper training, safety instruction, and skill level make any activity more enjoyable.

Just as we ask experienced operators to mentor and train our less experienced ones, I am asking experienced motorcyclists to mentor new riders and help them develop their skills and knowledge about riding.

For that reason, I have asked the Air Force Chief of Safety, with the assistance of the Vice Chief of Staff and the Air Force Operational Safety Council, to explore, develop, and field a motorcycle mentoring concept that could foster the education and skills development of our motorcycle riders.

This Air Force-wide network of motorcycle clubs could foster relationships between riders who have been riding in an area for years and those new to the area or new to riding. They can also create a supportive environment of responsible motorcycle riding and enjoyment while serving as a force multiplier for commanders' mishap prevention programs.

My vision is for a mentoring pro-

gram that will provide motorcycle operators the opportunity to work together to maximize their skills, reduce their chances for mishaps, and have fun in the process. The formula is simple: fundamental knowledge in the form of street strategies and well-honed skills coupled with the most critical element—a responsible riding mindset.

I am also asking commanders to look out for their motorcycle riders.

Make sure that the troops under your command who ride are trained to do so.

A commander's responsibility for safety does not end with the duty day. Actively seek out those who have bikes or are interested in taking up motorcycle riding. Make sure they take the safety courses offered on our bases, even if they have no intention of riding on base, and encourage them to join these clubs.

I ask commanders to encourage all their people to live life off-duty with the same regard for safety we practice on duty.

To those who ride motorcycles, I respect your right to choose a motorcycle as a form of transportation and/or recreation. But, I ask you to operate them safely; practice good risk management, and operate within your abilities.

Above all, make sure you are wearing the proper safety equipment. Also, look out for those who aren't ready for more advanced challenges and prevent them from engaging in dangerous behavior.

I'm a new rider myself, and I will be taking an approved motorcycle-training course to make sure I am qualified to ride before I take my bike on the road. I'm looking forward to riding, but only when I have the skills necessary to ensure I won't be a danger on the road. And I won't go anywhere without my helmet.

Only through your efforts will we reduce the mishap rate throughout our Air Force. We will provide the tools necessary—it is every rider's responsibility to put them to use.



58th SOW offers experienced motorcycle course

The 58th Special Operations Wing is offering the Experienced Rider Course Suite, March 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

The ERC Suite is a major component of Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Rider Education and Training System. Complementing the Basic Rider Course released in 2001, the ERC Suite provides current motorcyclists lifelong opportunities for rider education and training.

The ERC Suite Kit, which may be ordered through the MSF Web site (www.msf-usa.org/), includes materials for conducting ERC Suite Rider Courses as well as the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's Riding Straight Module.

The module specifically addresses alcohol use and impaired riding. Together they provide multiple opportunities to address not only fundamental motorcycle safety concepts and skill development, but contemporary and emerging issues such as crash trends, re-entry riders, effects of various impairments and the effects of aging on motorcycle operation.

The ERC Suite offers many enhancements over the old course:

★ Before, riders had to wait until they rode a certain number of miles or wait several months after first learning to ride; now riders may enroll immediately after they have acquired basic skills.

★ Before, a full-size range was required for instruction; now any MSF-recognized BRC range may accommodate ERC Suite Rider Courses.

★ Before, there were instructor-centered classroom lessons; now learner-centered classroom activities are conducted using Rider Classroom Cards during participant discussions on the range.

★ Before, experienced riders had to complete a beginner's course to earn a license waiver; now with state approval, riders may earn a waiver by completing a course designed for people with experience.

★ Before, the course was an eight-hour event; now learning activities are completed in five hours, allowing sites to conduct two classes per day.

Riders must provide a safe, street-ready insured motorcycle and they must wear the required safety gear including, leather sturdy over-the-ankle boots, brightly colored or contrasting vest, long sleeved shirt or jacket as an outer upper garment, full-fingered motorcycle gloves or mittens and long trousers.

Long trousers and helmets must meet, as a minimum, Department of Transportation standards and be properly worn and fastened. Helmets may also meet other standards such as the Snell Memorial.

Lastly, riders are required to have a valid stateside license with state endorsements.

For more information and to register call Staff Sgt. Antonio Exum, 853-5837, Lt. Col. Glenn Brown, 853-5835 or go to <https://sof.58sow.kirtland.af.mil/safety/index.html>.

There's still time to leave Air Force early

Nearly 1,250 airmen have applied to leave the Air Force early under 'Force Shaping.'

As the March 12 application deadline draws near, officials looking to trim the force by more than 16,000 are encouraging Airmen of all ranks to take a careful look at options to retire or separate earlier than they might otherwise have been allowed.

"It isn't for everyone. But we think this program offers some Air Force members what they may be looking for—a way to transition from active duty and move on with the next challenge in their life," said Col. Phil Odom, Air Force Personnel Center chief of Air Force separations and retirements, Randolph AFB, Texas.

The early-out program is off to a slower start than officials had hoped. Under the plan, the exit doors were opened to Airmen by waiving some active-duty service commitments and relaxing restrictions for transition to the Guard or Reserve.

Under the Limited Active Duty Service Commitment waiver, Airmen in select career fields and year groups, have the option to waive some active-duty service commitments previously in-

curred for events like government-funded education, permanent changes of station and promotion therefore separating or retiring from the Air Force.

If members would like to use this waiver to retire they must be retirement eligible and set a retirement date between June 1 and Sept. 1.

Not all career field specialties are eligible for the active duty service commitment waivers, however. Those ineligible to apply are those in restricted specialty codes, personnel currently attending tech training, personnel with a Critical Skills Retention Bonus, and those notified by their commander that they are under investigation.

The list of affected career fields—29 officer and 34 enlisted—is posted at <http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/retsep/shape.htm>.

Applications for any of the force-shaping early release programs must be made through the MPF Separations Office by contacting Staff Sgt. Brian Cyr at 846-5702.

If you have any questions concerning your active duty service commitment, contact Master Sgt. Raymond Nivens, 846-9541 or Staff Sgt. Oriana Gandara, 846-8967.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Terry Montrose

Command chief's visit

Airman 1st Class Nate Guerrero, a 407th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron vehicle mechanic deployed to Tallil Air Base, Iraq from Kirtland AFB, talks with Chief Master Sgt. John Foran, 9th Air Force command chief master sergeant, during a visit Feb. 23. The chief advises the 9th Air Force commander and staff on matters influencing the health, welfare, morale and effective use of enlisted personnel. As the air component of U.S. Central Command, 9th Air Force's mission is to develop contingency plans and conduct air operations in a 20-nation area of responsibility stretching from Kenya in eastern Africa, southward to the Seychelles islands and across the Arabian Peninsula and Southwest Asia to Pakistan. The chief is stationed at Shaw AFB, S.C.

COMMENTARY

Is your office recycling?

BY STEVEN KITT

Solid waste program manager

I recycle at home and in my office at Kirtland AFB. A simple enough statement, but how many of you actively participate in recycling at your office or shop?

As we approach Earth Day, March 19, (Kirtland AFB will celebrate on March 17), it seems an appropriate question to ask.

It seems that Kirtland AFB has had recycling forever because it has become one of those "If Remembered" types of programs.

What that means is that the program has sort of gone on autopilot and is running itself. Yes, there is a team which actively works the issues as they arise but, for the most part, the base populace goes about their day-to-day business without giving much thought to the program and what makes it work.

Does your work place participate? Who is the Recycling Point of Contact for your facility? Do you put only the required items in each type of recycling bin? Does your office use the recycling bins for trash and then expect the contractor to sort out what is not recyclable?

OK, enough questions, because after ten years of overseeing this program I know the answers. But first, how about an overview of the program and the different avenues you can take to participate in recycling.

The biggest portion of the program is the "Office/Shop Recyclable Collection" route. This route consists of 125 pickup points

throughout the installation including the base hospital. The pickup schedule for these sites begins with West Side collection on Mondays, East Side on Tuesdays and the Hospital and areas south of the runway on Wednesdays. Route collection starts at 7:30 a.m. and normally goes well into the afternoon.

A contractor working, in theory, at "no cost" to the government accomplishes the site collections. The service is essentially paid for by scrap metals collected by the contractor from job sites or collection points in the Civil Engineer yard and at the base landfill.

The contractor will collect from your office or shop all recyclable white papers including certain types of shredded white paper, aluminum cans, newspaper and toner cartridges.

The contractor then delivers the paper products to Sandia National Laboratories, Solid Waste Transfer Facility where it is processed and then sold. Proceeds from the sales first go to pay for the processing and then the remainder goes into the Qualified Recycling Programs account for future use.

The transfer facility also works for Kirtland AFB recycling in that it is responsible for the collection, processing and sale of products from our remote operations. These include the Central Recycling Drop-Off Center at the Commissary, the 44 white cardboard dumpsters throughout the installation and various roll-offs the program places around the base to collect cardboard during organizational moves or up-

grades in furniture where large volumes are generated.

At the Central Drop-Off Center customers can recycle cardboard, aluminum cans and newsprint. We have tried other products in the past but they have cost more than acceptable to operate the program as required by Air Force and have been dropped. Patrons are encouraged to use Albuquerque's recycling centers for glass and plastics.

Now, back to the original question. Do you participate in the base recycling program?

Those who do were responsible for saving Kirtland AFB and your government about \$157,000 last year. This is what it would have cost to dispose of the 1,279 tons of municipal solid waste products recycled by the base last year in addition to the 14,592 tons of construction and demolition debris we diverted from landfills. This is down by 14 percent from calendar year 2001 traditional recycling numbers.

The contract limits the collection route to 125-collection points base-wide. These are generally the buildings anticipated to generate significant quantities. Smaller organizations are encouraged to do self drop-offs at the transfer station during normal duty hours.

The Solid Waste Program manager and others will do everything possible to balance the route to ensure the maximum recyclable products are being collected.

Now, go back to your work place and ask why you do not participate in the base-recycling program. Questions? Call 846-9014.

Changes move more responsibilities to AFPC

BY 1ST LT. KELLEY JETER

377th Air Base Wing Public Affairs

A few new changes went into effect this week at Air Force Personnel Center that will alter the local civilian employment procedures.

The changes to "upfront staffing," are meant to transfer certain responsibilities related to the civilian recruitment and hiring processes from the 377th Civilian Personnel Flight to the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, Texas. These changes mark the migration of the last significant piece of the regionalized civilian personnel servicing which was originally envisioned when the PALACE Compass initiative was launched in the mid-90s.

Kirtland AFB's CPF will lose two manpower positions, which are now transferred to AFPC. The biggest change supervisors will see is that they will now have to deal directly with AFPC staffing specialists for nearly all recruiting and hiring actions.

Management advisory services on recruiting and filling local positions will now be received from Randolph AFB, rather than the local office.

AFPC will also administer the Priority Placement Program, issue templates and referral certificates directly to supervisors and will review all proposed interview questions prior to candidate interviews.

Job offers will now be conveyed directly from AFPC, primary in-processing functions will be performed by them and AFPC will also establish Entrance-On-Duty dates.

Another important change will be the resolution of qualification and referral issues, which will now be handled at AFPC.

Call Kathy Wiltse, 846-9954.